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# PRESS RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## VVA Applauds Sen. Schumer for Last-minute Vote in Attempt to Save *PACT Act of 2022*

(Washington, D.C.) — “We applaud Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) for yesterday’s valiant act of leadership in changing his vote from a Yay to a Nay, a procedure that allows him to bring the bipartisan *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act* back on the floor for a future vote,” said Jack McManus, National President, Vietnam Veterans of America. “A staunch supporter of the act, Schumer saw the writing on the wall and acted to save the legislation from its death in this 117<sup>th</sup> Congress.

“For over 40 years, VVA has steadfastly advocated for veterans living with chronic illnesses resulting from toxic exposures during their service,” said McManus. “All veterans have earned the comprehensive relief this bill offered them. For our aging Vietnam veterans, the speedy passage of this bill was especially important, not only for the care they desperately need, but as an acknowledgement the country recognizes and honors their service.

To the 41 naysayers in the Senate and to those who did not vote, we note your cowardice and urge caution by sharing with you the words of our nation’s first president: “The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.”

“The bill failed due to the Nays: *Barrasso (R-WY); Blackburn (R-TN); Blunt (R-MO); Braun (R-IN); Burr (R-NC); Cassidy (R-LA); Cornyn (R-TX); Cotton (R-AR); Cramer (R-ND); Crapo (R-ID); Cruz (R-TX); Daines (R-MT); Ernst (R-IA); Fischer (R-NE); Hagerty (R-TN); Hawley (R-MO); Johnson (R-WI); Kennedy (R-LA); Lankford (R-OK); Lee (R-UT); Hyde-Smith (R-MS); Inhofe (R-OK); Lummis (R-WY); Marshall (R-KS); McConnell (R-KY); Paul (R-KY); Portman (R-OH); Risch (R-ID); Romney (R-UT); Rounds (R-SD); Sasse (R-NE); Scott (R-FL); Scott (R-SC); Shelby (R-AL); Sullivan (R-AK); Thune (R-SD); Tillis (R-NC); Toomey (R-PA); Tuberville (R-AL); Wicker (R-MS); and Young (R-IN).*

In early June, the bipartisan bill had been voted unanimously out of the Senate with an 88-14 vote and by a 342-88 vote in the House. We will continue our battle for the passage of this bill in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress.